

**Respect
Ambition
Community
Confidence**



April 2024

4/5B Term 2 Newsletter

Dates Term 2

15th Apr – Dance Incursion Begins
23rd Apr – Sovereign Hill Excursion (Yr 5-6)
24th Apr – RPS Cross Country
25th Apr – Anzac Day
26th Apr - Assembly
3rd May – Interschool Sports Starts
7th May - Whole School Dance Production
8th May – 5th Jun – Yr 3-4 Balance Gym
10th May - Assembly
14th May - RPS Open Morning 9.30am - 11am
23rd May - Yr 5-6 Research Ridge
24th May - Curriculum Day
28th May - RPS Athletics
31st May - Assembly
4th Jun - Water Watchers Incursion
10th Jun - Kings Birthday
14th Jun – Assembly – 4/5B Presenting
18th Jun - School Photos
28th Jun – Term 2 ends 2.30pm – Assembly
15th Jul – Term 2 begins

Dear Parents,

Wow, term one has absolutely flown by! I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. We had a jam-packed term one with Kaboom Sports, District swimming and Year 4 swim lessons, NAPLAN, Year 5 Health and Human Relations and topping it all off with our Spotlight Expo. The Expo was a highlight of the term and was a fantastic way to celebrate the students hard work, they were all thrilled to show off their passion projects to their peers and families.

The aim for the year ahead is to continue providing learning experiences that enable the students to develop independence, resilience, responsibility for their own learning, which promotes leadership skills.

The following staff will continue working closely with your child, providing many new, stimulating, and challenging activities in our specialist areas. Maryanne Skeen (Science and Technology & Library), Krista Kepitis (Art) and Mark O'Halloran (PE).

Have a read below to see what we have coming up in term two.

Reading

This term we will continue Independent Reading where students are provided a set reading time, giving them the time to practice the explicit reading strategies taught in class. We will revisit how to pick a 'Good Fit' book and build reading stamina. We will also conduct Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments with every student.

The reading strategies we will be focusing on this term are Making Connections, Summarising, Analysing, Inferring, Critiquing, Synthesising and Predicting.

Home Reading is a requirement of all Year 4/5 students. They are to record the number of nights read in their diary/reading logs (record the book title & pages), rather than the number of books they read. We would appreciate your assistance in encouraging your child to read regularly at home and have book conversations.

Writing

Grade 4/5B students are involved in daily writing sessions. Through conversations and discussions, the students are encouraged to broaden and increase their vocabulary. Fun and engaging activities assist in promoting grammar and structure skills. Inspiring prompts and story creation lessons help spark the student's creativity and imaginations. This term we will be focusing on transactional writing and historical narratives.

Mathematics

Throughout Term 2 we will finalise our work on Place Value before moving into Addition and Subtraction, Time, Mass and Capacity (Measurement). Students work at their appropriate level for each topic. Students participate in daily Mathematics sessions and will explore the curriculum through differentiated learning tasks. All students will also have access both at school and at home to Mathletics on-line to support our Numeracy program.

Integrated Studies

During Term 2, Year 4's will undertake an Integrated Studies unit entitled "First Nations Peoples" where students will investigate Australian history from an Indigenous Australian perspective. This will be followed by a unit "First Contact – The Land of Opportunity" where students will investigate the First Fleet and the early years of Colonisation.

Year 5's will explore the unit "Eureka! Gold in Victoria" where students will investigate the impact of the gold rush on Australian society, economy, and culture. Research Ridge will be held on Thursday 23rd May and is where the students experience life in the Victorian goldfields. They will be cooking and eating food prepared on open fires, constructing their own shelters and providing forms of entertainment.

Home Learning

Home Learning is a part of the classroom program and allows students to develop positive work habits and to manage their time effectively. Home Learning will be handed out on Friday and due back on the following Wednesday. The aim of home learning is for students to take *Personal Responsibility* for their learning at home. Parents are asked to encourage their child to establish a Home Learning routine.

Term 1 Highlight - Spotlight Project!

The Spotlight project provided students an opportunity to shine a light on a passion they have while developing their creativity, imagination, and knowledge. They looked forward to our Spotlight sessions each week and were very excited to showcase their efforts at our Expo.



Specialists Classes

In Science this term, we will be studying Geology to learn about how rocks are formed and the natural processes by which they change over time. In our 'Rockin' Around Research' project, students will investigate the type of rocks found at school and in the local area.

During library sessions, Year 4/5 students will discuss what they learned about a character through their dialogue in a story such as what they liked, disliked and their personal qualities. We will also go further and explore how an author influences the way we feel towards a character. This is a friendly reminder that library books are on loan for 2 weeks.

In Art during Term 2 Year 4/5B will continue working on their mosaic on mesh pieces. In the second half of the term their focus will switch to the art element of space, and they will investigate one-point perspectives.

In PE the Year 4/5 students will focus on honing their Aussie Rules football skills before preparing for the RPS Athletics Carnival. Finally, wrapping up the term, they will engage in coach-led soccer sessions.

Home – School Communication With Classroom Teachers

I am more than happy to discuss the learning progress of your child with you throughout the year, or any other issues or concerns. I can be emailed through **Compass** online. Please try to avoid catching us after 8.50am in the morning as we are busy preparing for the day. I am unavailable after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to staff training.

With the School or Office

The following are the school's contact details:

1570 Main Road Research 3095

Tel: 9437 1917

research.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Wellbeing

The purpose of wellbeing sessions is to address and discuss any issues that may arise in class or in the yard. Through creating an environment of open communication, we aim to improve the wellbeing and mental health of our students with a focus on emotions, thoughts, and self-esteem. In these sessions, students will explore strategies that will help them in challenging situations and continue developing resilience. For example: exploring help-seeking, problem solving, gratitude, and mindfulness.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Grade 4/5B newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or you can contact the school directly. I look forward to working successfully with you and your child this year.

Kind Regards
Peter Blackford